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INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 2184

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 000202

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [ETT](#) [C](#) [MASS](#) [PARM](#) [CH](#) [FR](#)
SUBJECT: EU ARMS EMBARGO ON CHINA: FRANCE SUPPORTS LIFTING,
BUT NOT (YET) IN THE CARDS

REF: STATE 13969

Classified By: Political Counselor Andrew Young, Reasons 1.4 (b), (d).

¶1. (C) In response to points in reftel, MFA Deputy Director for EU Common Foreign and Security Policy Mathieu Carmona said France continues to support lifting the EU's arms embargo on China, since "it is not a useful tool," and export controls could accomplish the same goal. However, he said lifting the embargo continues to be unlikely given a lack of consensus in the EU.

¶2. (C) Moreover, Carmona claimed there is no serious discussion of the issue in the EU at present. However, France is hoping for a larger discussion of the EU's relationships with "emerging powers," including China, with the goal of harmonizing commercial, security, and political priorities into a coherent overall policy. It is possible that the arms embargo may come up in this context, he said, adding that France hoped to include the "emerging powers" discussion on the agenda for the informal March 5-6 Gymnich meeting of EU foreign ministers.
RIVKIN